

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11-14, and 16-18 are currently pending. Claims 1, 7, and 12 have been amended solely for the purpose of clarifying the features of the present invention. New claim 19 has been added.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11-14, and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over an article authored by Thomas A. Nobbe and entitled, "Robots Go Where No Man Has Gone Before" (hereinafter Robots) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,658,325 B2 (Zweig).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 7, and 12 are patentable over the references, as neither of the references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the feature of the present invention pertaining to "if instruction information regarding moving a selected article in at least one of a variety of positions for display and operating a camera included in a robot", according to the moving, is received from a user terminal, outputting to a robot, "a first request for acquiring image information" according to the moving of the article.

On page 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleged that "Robot" as well as Zweig would suggest and teach one of ordinary skill in the art of receiving a first request for acquiring image information according to moving of a selected article. In particular, the Examiner alleged that the example in Robots pertaining to the Jason robot would suggest and teach a teleoperated robot with specially designed manipulators to lift an article from the sea bottom.

As is clearly indicated by the currently amended claims, in the present invention, if instruction information regarding moving a selected article (for example, an instruction regarding moving an item over, up, or down) is received from a user terminal, *along with* instruction information regarding operating a camera according to the movement, a first request for acquiring image information according to the moving is output to the robot.

Therefore, in the present invention, the instruction information includes information pertaining to moving the item *and* information pertaining to obtaining an image of the item according to the movement, for example, an image of the item in the upright position.

Robots simply indicates that the robot "Jason" used one of its specially designed manipulators to lift artifacts from the sea bottom onto a mesh platform which carried the artifacts to the surface.

Robots provides absolutely no information or suggestion that instruction information regarding operating a camera according to the movement of the object is received. Thus,

assuming *arguendo* that Robots teaches or suggests, "a teleoperated robot with specially designed manipulators to lift article from the sea bottom," as alleged by the Examiner, the reference provides no suggestion of instruction information regarding operating a camera according to the movement of the object.

Moreover, merely lifting an object from the sea is not tantamount to manipulating an object.

Further still, Robots teaches away from the present invention in that Robots suggests that the samples, that is, the objects, are placed on a tray, from which, an inference may be drawn that photographs of the object according to manipulation are not necessary, as the actual objects are collected.

Regarding Zweig, the particular section of Zweig cited by the Examiner, that is, column 9, lines 33-53 of Zweig, indicates that signals are sent from a remote user to direct the robot to send SBDRL signals to control the movement of the external robotic arm.

Applicants respectfully submit that moving an external robotic arm is not tantamount to or related to manipulating an object. Assuming *arguendo* that such signals are interpreted as instruction information regarding moving a selected article, Zweig provides no suggestion of instruction information regarding operating a camera according to movement of a selected article.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 7, and 12 are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented above. As the dependent claims depend from the independent claims, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

On page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Robot and Zweig as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Van Kommer.

As Van Kommer does not teach or suggest a robot capable of moving an object, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18, via claim 1, is patentable over Van Kommer, as Van Kommer does not receive instruction information regarding moving a selected article.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 19 is patentable over the references, as none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, "receiving a purchase instruction based on an evaluation resulting from inspection of said object as said object appears in said image," for example, as recited in claim 19.

Serial No. 09/863,254

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

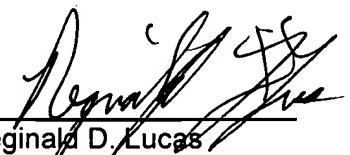
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after the response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to the matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 11/3/06

By: 
Reginald D. Lucas
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501